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# PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS,

## NIZAM'S TERRITORY.

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## KALBURGAH.

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25TH JUNE 1881.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT BY
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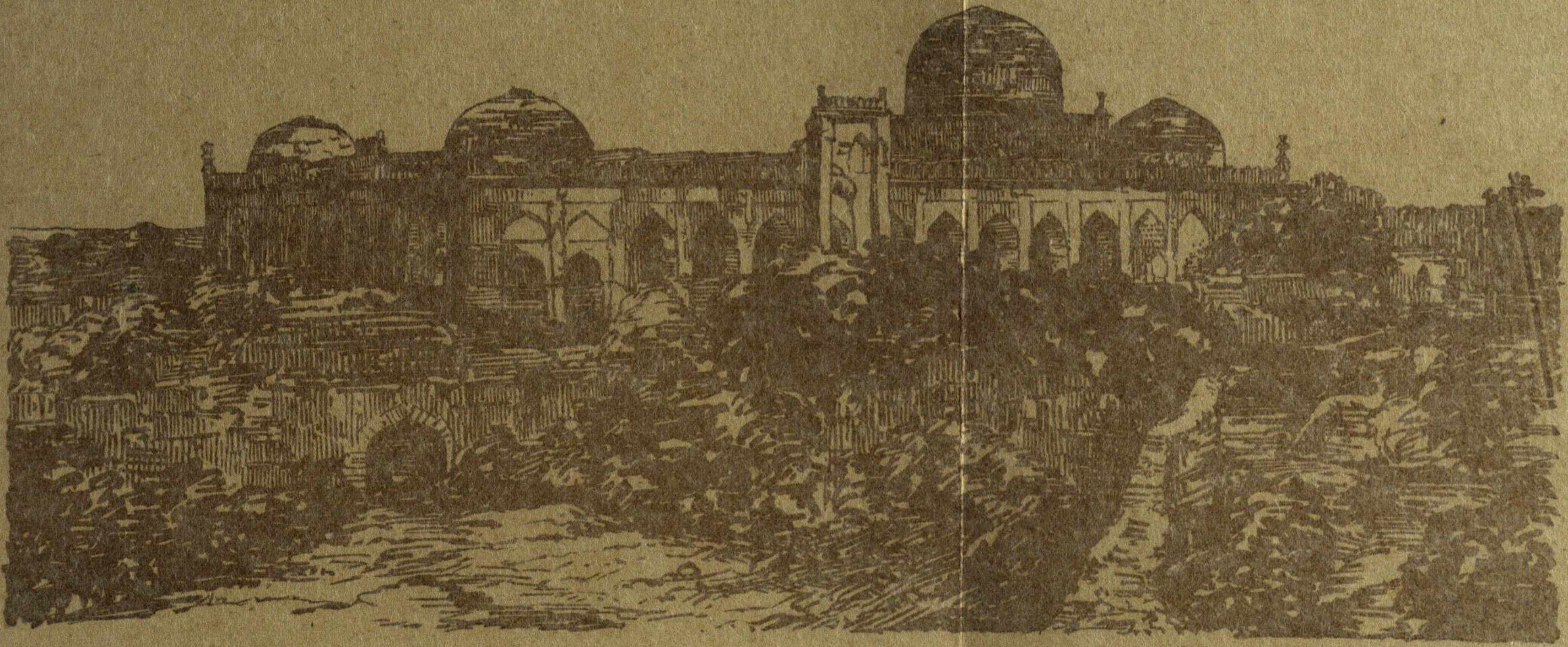
CURATOR OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN INDIA.

SIMLA:
GOVERNMENT CENTAL BRANCH PRESS.
1881.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE · GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



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# KALBURGAH.

1. My stay in March last at this most interesting place was rendered doubly agreeable through the courtesies of the Nizam's officers, the Sudder Talukdar, and Mr. N. Woods, the Executive Engineer of Kalburgah.

*Banda Nawaz.*

The Banda Nawaz.

2. My first visit was to the "Banda Nawaz," the tomb of a saint who came to Kalburgah in the reign of Firuz Shah, A.D. 1436. It is about 1½ miles east-north-east of the Nizam's bungalow, and is reached by a road passing through a suburb of low houses. On ascending some steps into an enclosure, the tomb appears in front. It is a plain dome about 80 feet high. The inner shrine of the saint is of repoussé silver work ornamented with circular medallions. Near the saint's tomb is that of his grandson, and south of the enclosure is another, of the saint's eldest son. *All three buildings are of singularly good proportions and worth drawing.* Unfortunately each year adds a coat of whitewash to the masonry, and the sculptures are getting more and more obliterated. The endowments come to about Rs. 80,000, and the *cost of removing the whitewash could well be afforded by the Trustees.*

Worthy of illustration.

Buildings near.

3. South of the tomb enclosure is a handsome "Nakarkhanah," and in the storey below a "caravanserai," with a "Madrasah" and a mosque on the right, all of stone. The serai has a huge archway, and the columns of the buildings are of unusual design. *Illustrations would be valuable.*

Worth illustration.

*Tombs of the Bahmani Kings.*

Tombs of Bahmani Kings.

4. These are about one-third of a mile south of the "Banda Nawaz;" the principal building has two domes, and is now used as a Revenue Court. The doorways have some nice incised plaster arabesque work. The exterior arches of the walls are filled with bold geometric traceries. The interior of the building has some extremely good arched-work in plaster, but the dome is black with age, smoke, and bats.

Revenue records in one building.

5. Under one of the two domes is a black tombstone. The office records are stored here.

Judicial Court, &c., in other buildings.

6. Another tomb is in use as a Judicial Court, others are occupied as offices by

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Kalburgah.

Tombs of the Bahmani Kings.

police, guards, treasury, &c. The building adapted for the latter has some good arch-work in the dome.

Worth drawing.

7. *Vegetation has attacked many of the domes and ought to be destroyed. The buildings are worth preserving and drawing.*

*The Great Mosque* (*see sketch*).

The Great Mosque.

8. This remarkable structure dates from the fourteenth century, and was erected with other buildings at the time that Kalburgah was the capital of the Deccan. It stands in the fort, which is a massive stronghold of that period, and measures about 216 feet east and west and 176 feet north and south. Its peculiarity is that the whole area is domed over, the light and air being admitted through the ranges of arches to the north, south and east. The merit of this system is that the mosque is at all times in shade and protected from the sun. Whether the peculiar construction arose out of the form of some previously existing Hindu edifice is a question. Mr. Eastwick calls it "the Temple of Raja Kalchand, which the King Gangu Bahmani converted into a mosque."* Be this as it may, the fact remains that, whereas the early Indian mosques were open courtyards surrounded by colonnades, this is a solitary instance of the whole area being under cover, and as such has a special architectural value of its own.

Condition.

9. The stone columns supporting the domes are very massive. Only one of them has fallen and *might worthily be renewed.* Four lights have been introduced in each of the small domes. The building was unoccupied during my visit—in 1878 it was used for famine relief purposes—now it is dirty and neglected, a portion of the arches being filled with loose stone. I was informed that it is intended to open out a roadway through the fort, communicating direct with the great mosque. This would be a great improvement, *and the opportunity might then be taken of repairing and cleaning out the building.*

10. On a bastion 40 feet high in the fort is a large gun of coiled steel with horizontal bars in the centre. It measures 26 feet long 7 feet 6 inches round at the breach, and 6 feet at the muzzle. The bore is 11 inches in diameter. The gun *should be preserved in situ.*

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* This seems doubtful as the architecture is purely Moslem.

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Kalburgah.
Jama Masjid.

*The Jama Masjid.*

11. Near the Shah Bazar is a vast building—the Jama Masjid—with square columns, pointed arches and small domes, surrounded by a quadrangle. The Nizam's Government have repaired it.

H. H. COLE, *Captain, R. E.*,

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*25th June 1881.*

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Govt. Central Branch Press, Simla,—No. 384 R. & A. D.—25-10-81—200.